

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 DHA-02 /066 W

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O R 140900Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7132

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL

REF: SEOUL 3512

BEGIN SUMMARY. SECOND SESSION TRIEL OF KIM TAE-CHUNG AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN MYONGDONG AFFAIR SCHEDULED TO BEGIN 10:00 AM, MAY 25. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HAVE PICKED UP SEVEN PASSES FOR FAMILIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF DEFENDANTS. HOWEVER, SOME FAMILIES OBJECT TO COURT REQUIREMENT THAT PASSES MUST BE SIGNED BY USERS AND HAVE NOT DECIDED IF THEY WILL USE THEM OR CONTINUE BOYCOTT OF TRIAL. POSSIBILITY OF SECOND POSTPONEMENT EXISTS IF LAWYERS AND DEFENDANTS CONTINUE TO STONEWALL ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. SECOND SESSION OF KIM TAE-CHUNG AND SEVENTEEN OTHERS ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN MYONGDONG AFFAIR SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 AM, MAY 15 IN SEOUL DISTRICT COURT. ISSUE OF USE OF PASSES WHICH CAUSED POSTPONEMENT OF TRIAL ON MAY 4 STILL NOT COMPLETELY SETTLED THOUGH DEFENSE LAWYERS PICKED UP SEVEN PASSES FROM COURT FOR USE BY PERSONS DESIGNATED BY EACH DEFENDANT. STICKING POINT IS COURT REQUIREMENT THAT USERS OF PASSES MUST SIGN THEM. SOME FAMILIES ARE OPPOSED TO SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT AND HAVE NOT YET

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DECIDED WHETHER TO COMPLY AND ATTEND TRIAL OR CONTINUE THEIR

BOYCOTT. IF DEFENSE LAWYERS, FAMILIES AND DEFENDANTS CONTINUE TO STONEWALL ON PASS ISSUE SECOND POSTPONEMENT IS POSSIBLE.

2. COURT HAS ISSUED MORE THAN 400 PASSES FOR SESSION ABOUT DOUBLE THE NUMBER ISSUED FOR MAY 4 SESSION. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT LARGE CROWD WILL AGAIN GATHER OUTSIDE COURT HOUSE BUT POLICE WILL ALSO BE OUT IN FORCE FOR CONTROL.

3. DEFENSE LAWYERS SAW DEFENDANTS MAY 13 AND FAMILIES WERE PERMITTED TO SEE DEFENDANTS TODAY, MAY 14. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG'S HEALTH HAS WORSENEED AND HE UNABLE TO WALK WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.

4. IF TRIAL NOT POSTPONED, JUDGE WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE WITH IDENTIFICATION OF DEFENDANTS WHICH DID NOT PROCEED BEYOND KIM TAE-CHUNG AT MAY 4 SESSION.

5. MAY 14 AFTERNOON PAPERS CARRIED SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRIAL SESSION.

6. EMBASSY LOCAL POLITICAL ANALYST HAS PASS AND WILL ATTEND SESSION.
SNEIDER

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